

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01683 242350Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

/066 W

----- 080471

O R 242259Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3375

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

RUESJOXAMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 2187

USUN 478

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1683

EO 1162: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, CS, CO, VE

SUBJ: PRESIDENTS' MEETING IN PANAMA--DECLARATION AND ACCOMPANY-
ING COMMENTS

REF: (A) PANAMA 1678 (B) PANAMA 1656

SUMMARY: JOINT DECLARATION, TO EVEN GREATER DEGREE THAN
ANTICIPATED, FOCUSSED ON THE CANAL ISSUE. NO MENTION WAS
MADE IN FINAL VERSION, ADVANCE PRESS REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY,
OF SUCH MATTERS AS OAS REFORMS, CREATION OF SELA OR U.S.
TRADE ACT. IN REMARKS FOLLOWING SIGNING CEREMONY, VISITING
PRESIDENTS REFLECTED EMPHASIS ON CANAL QUESTION, INCLUDING
BOTH SETTLEMENT OF URRUTIA-THOMSON PROBLEM AND
PANAMA'S LARGER ASPIRATIONS. IN DRAMATIC REVELATION,
PRESIDENT PEREZ STATED THAT CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT HAD SENT
(OR WOULD SEND) A CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION TO PRESIDENT

FORD ON THE CANAL PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 01683 242350Z

1. IN BRIEF STATEMENTS FOLLOWING CEREMONIAL SIGNING OF

JOINT DECLARATION (REF A), PRESIDENTS LOPEZ, PEREZ AND ODUBER REAFFIRMED IMPORTANCE OF MEETING AND DECLARATION FROM THEIR INDIVIDUAL PERSPECTIVES. REMARKS OF VISITING CHIEF EXECUTIVES, PREDICTABLY FULL OF KIND WORDS FOR ONE ANOTHER, STRONGLY UNDERLINED ENDORSEMENT OF PANAMA'S CANAL ASPIRATIONS, PRAISED AGREEMENT ON URRUTIA-THOMSON PROBLEM, AND STRESSED NEED FOR GROWING LATIN AMERICAN UNITY.

2. THE FIRST TO SPEAK, PRESIDENT LOPEZ THANKED VENEZUELA'S PEREZ FOR HIS GOOD OFFICES ON THE URRUTIA-THOMSON MATTER AND, NOTING HE WAS FIRST ACTIVE COLOMBIA PRESIDENT TO VISIT PANAMA, EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION THAT COLOMBIA WAS NOW ABLE TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS IN THE CANAL THROUGH AGREEMENT WITH A SOVEREIGN PANAMA RATHER THAN A FOREIGN POWER. THE MOST ELOQUENT OF THE FOUR, LOPEZ PLEDGED COLOMBIA'S COMPLETE SUPPORT TO PANAMA ON THE CANAL QUESTION, SPOKE OF THE PROMISING TREND TOWARD LATIN UNITY, AND THE NEED FOR ALL TO EXERCISE RESPONSIBILITY IN HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS. OBSERVING THAT THE U.S. MUST ACT MORE RESPONSIBLY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA, LOPEZ CAUTIONED THAT LATIN NATIONS MUST DEMONSTRATE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN RETURN.

3. PRESIDENT ODUBER, EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE BENEFITS OFFERED COSTA RICA UNDER THE AGREEMENT, LAUDED LOPEZ FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH COLOMBIA RESOLVED TO SETTLE THE URRUTIA-THOMSON ISSUE. PLEDGING COSTA RICA'S UNDIVIDED SUPPORT FOR PANAMA'S CANAL ASPIRATIONS, ODUBER CHARACTERIZED HIS COUNTRY'S POLICY AS "WHATEVER PANAMA DECIDES, COSTA RICA SUPPORTS." REFERRING TO THE PLANNED 1976 COMMEMORATION IN PANAMA OF THE 1826 BOLIVAR CONFERENCE, ODUBER REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD STRONGLY ADVOCATED THAT THE OCCASION, WHICH ALL LATIN PRESIDENTS WILL ATTEND, BOTH COMMEMORATE BOLIVAR'S DREAM AND ENDORSE PANAMA'S STRUGGLE FOR ITS FULL INDEPENDENCE.

4. THE VENEZUELAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE MOST AGGRESSIVE IN TONE--AND FREQUENTLY APPLAUDED--SPARED LITTLE IN HIS SUPPORT FOR PANAMA. TERMING THE CANAL AN INSTRUMENT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PANAMA 01683 242350Z

FOR LATIN INTEGRATION OVER WHICH PANAMA MUST BE SOVEREIGN, PEREZ STATED THAT THE WATERWAY BELONGS TO PANAMA, AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY, NOT A FOREIGN POWER. DRAMATICALLY REVEALING THAT THE CHIEFS OF STATE "HAD SENT" A CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION ON THE CANAL QUESTION TO PRESIDENT FORD, PEREZ CITED U.S. TRADITIONS AND IDEALS OF LIBERTY AND SELF-DETERMINATION. REFERRING TO A NEW TREATY HE HELD OUT AS A SORT OF CHALLENGE TO THE U.S. THE OPPORTUNITY

FOR THE 1976 BOLIVARIAN CEREMONIES--WHICH COINCIDE WITH THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION--TO REAFFIRM THE BELIEFS OF BOTH "BOLIVAR AND WASHINGTON."

5. GENERAL TORRIJOS, FOR HIS PART, LARGELY LIMITED HIMSELF TO REAFFIRMING PANAMA'S DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE ITS ASPIRATIONS, COMMENDED PANAMANIAN'S MATURITY AND PATRIOTISM IN PURSUING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CANAL PROBLEM, AND THANKED HIS GUESTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND THE RECOGNITION THE MEETING REPRESENTED FOR PANAMA'S CAUSE.

6. COMMENT: THE JOINT DECLARATION, TO AN EVEN GREATER DEGREE THAN ANTICIPATED, FOCUSED ON THE CANAL ISSUE. NO REFERENCE WAS MADE TO SUCH REPORTED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS AS OAS REFORMS, CREATION OF SELA, THE TRADE ACTE, ETC. THIS SAME EMPHASIS WAS CLEAR IN PRESIDENT'S REMARKS FOLLOWING SIGNING OF DECLARATION. PANAMA'S PRINCIPAL INTEREST IN THE MEETING, ASIDE FROM RESOLVING THE URRUTIA-THOMSON QUESTION WITH COLOMBIA, WAS TO ACHIEVE A HIGH-LEVEL, HIGHLY VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR ITS CANAL ASPIRATIONS. IN THAT IT APPEARS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED. WHILE LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR PANAMA IS A MATTER OF RECORD, THE GOP FIRMLY BELIEVES SUCH MANIFESTATIONS OF SOLIDARITY SERVE TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE U.S. TO ACCORD THE PANAMA PROBLEM PRIORITY ATTENTION.
JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PANAMA01683
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750103-0095
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750322/aaaaatmo.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PANAMA 1678, 75 PANAMA 1656
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTS' MEETING IN PANAMA--DECLARATION AND ACCOMPANY- ING COMMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, PN, CS, CO, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006